$2.00

FRANS MASEREEL

THE CITY

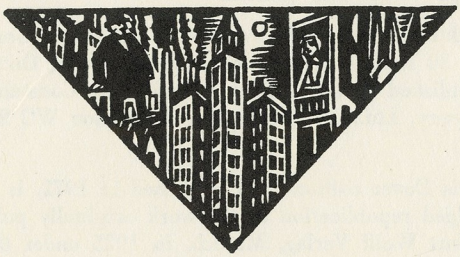
THE CITY

THE CITY

[DIE STADT]

100 WOODCUTS BY

FRANS MASEREEL



DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC.
NEW YORK

All rights reserved under Pan American and International Copyright Conventions. European copyright by Europa Verlag A.G. Zurich.

Published in Canada by General Publishing Company, Ltd., 30 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Toronto, Ontario.
Published in the United Kingdom by Constable and Company, Ltd., 10 Orange Street, London WC 2.

This Dover edition, first published in 1972, is an unabridged republication of the work originally published by Kurt Wolff Verlag, Munich, in 1925 under the title *Die Stadt*. The work is reprinted by special arrangement with Europa Verlag, Zurich.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 71-182101
International Standard Book Number: 0-486-22448-1

Manufactured in the United States of America
Dover Publications, Inc.
180 Varick Street
New York, N. Y. 10014

THE CITY

FM

1

CORSETS
FM

ICI
?
!
COU
COU
CACHE
TON
FM

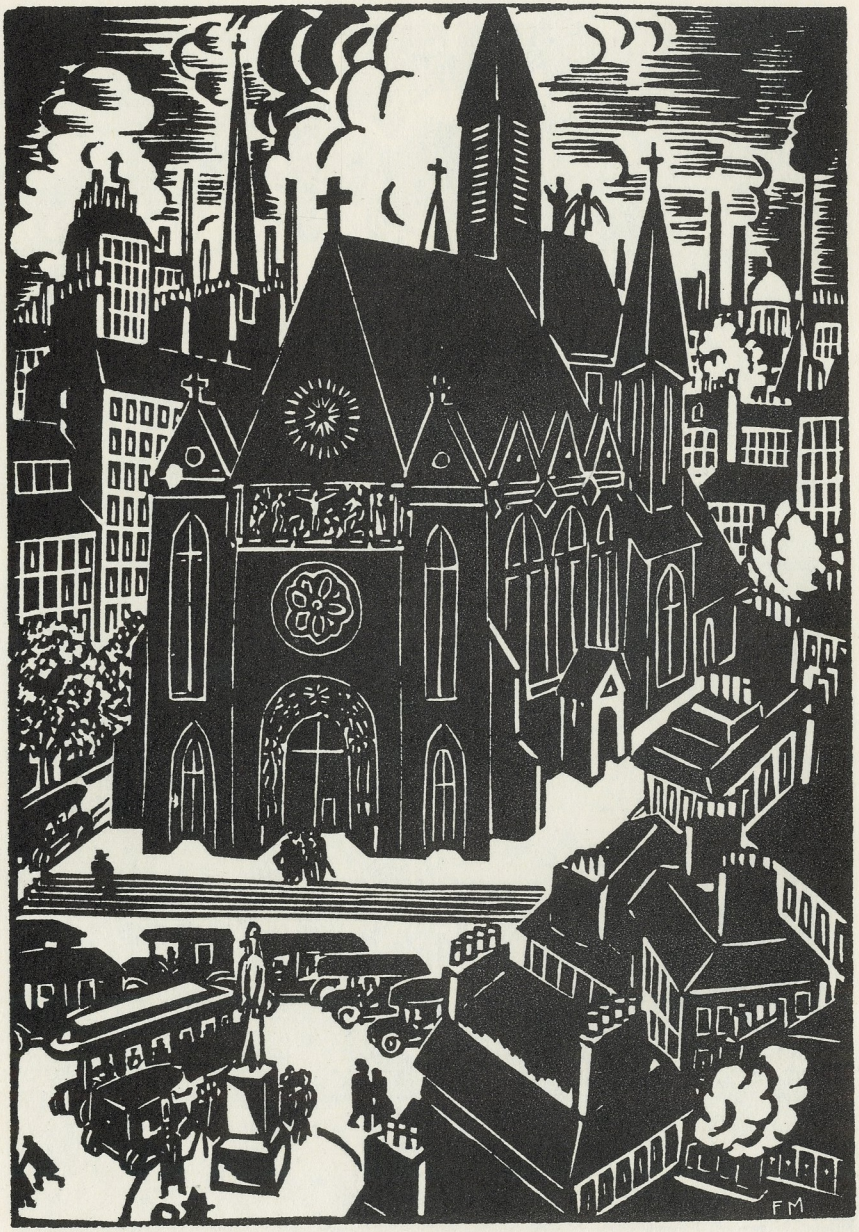
CAISSE
1
10.000.000
6%
5

UNITED STA
EGY
FM

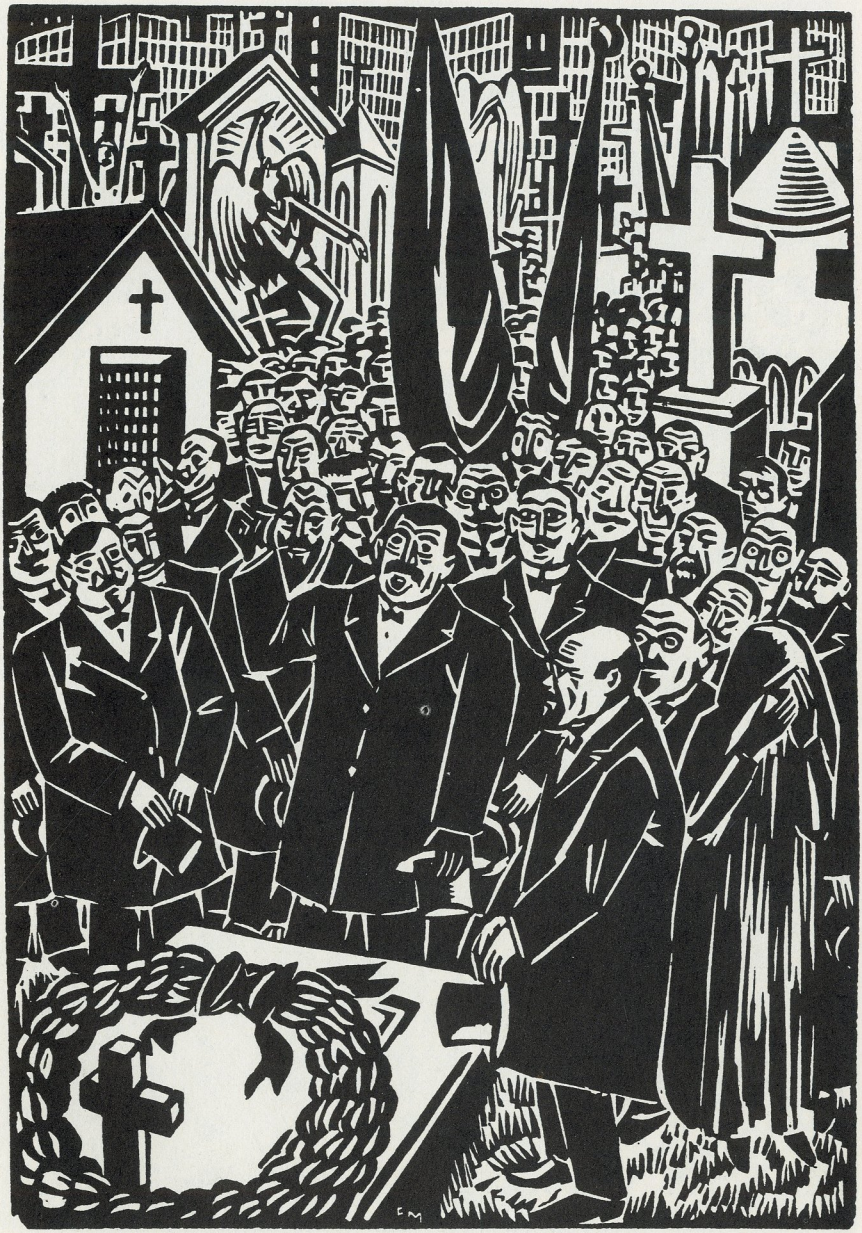
FM

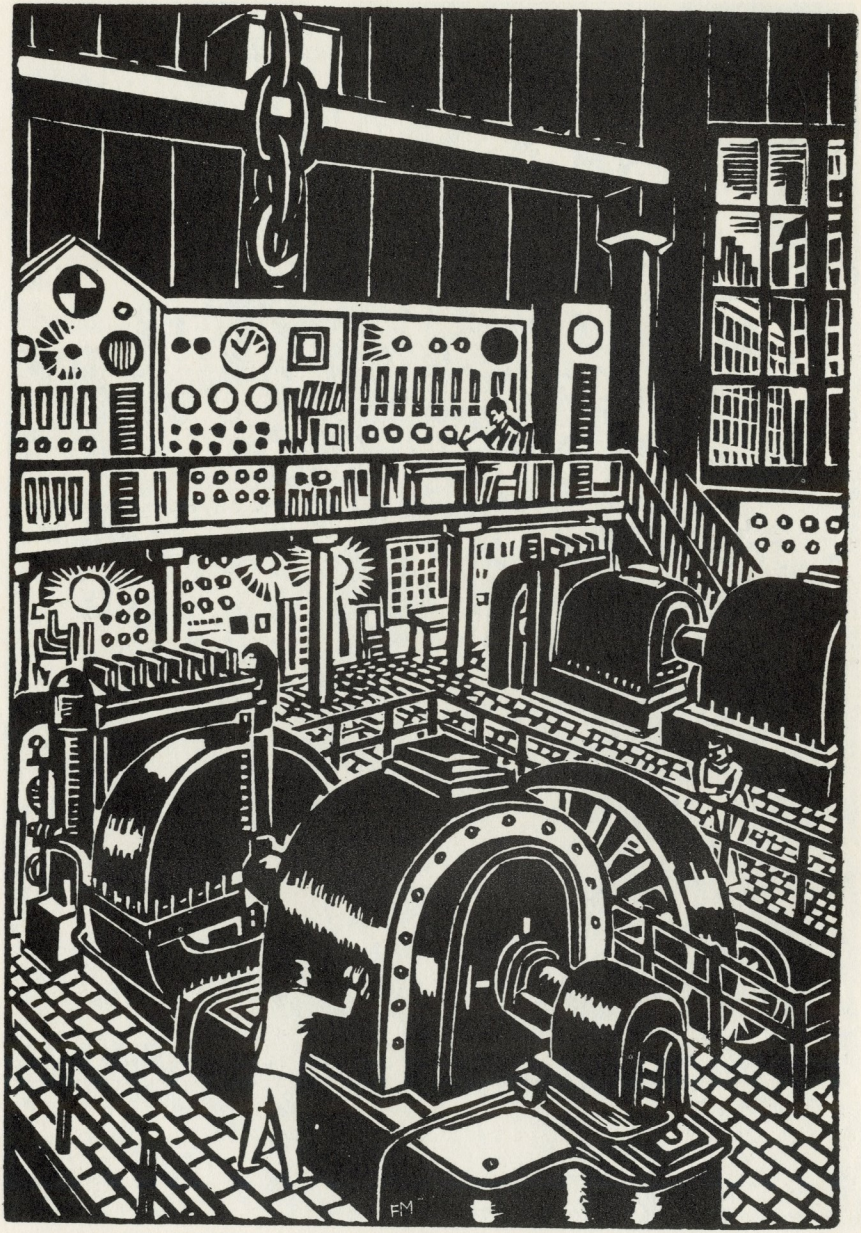
FM

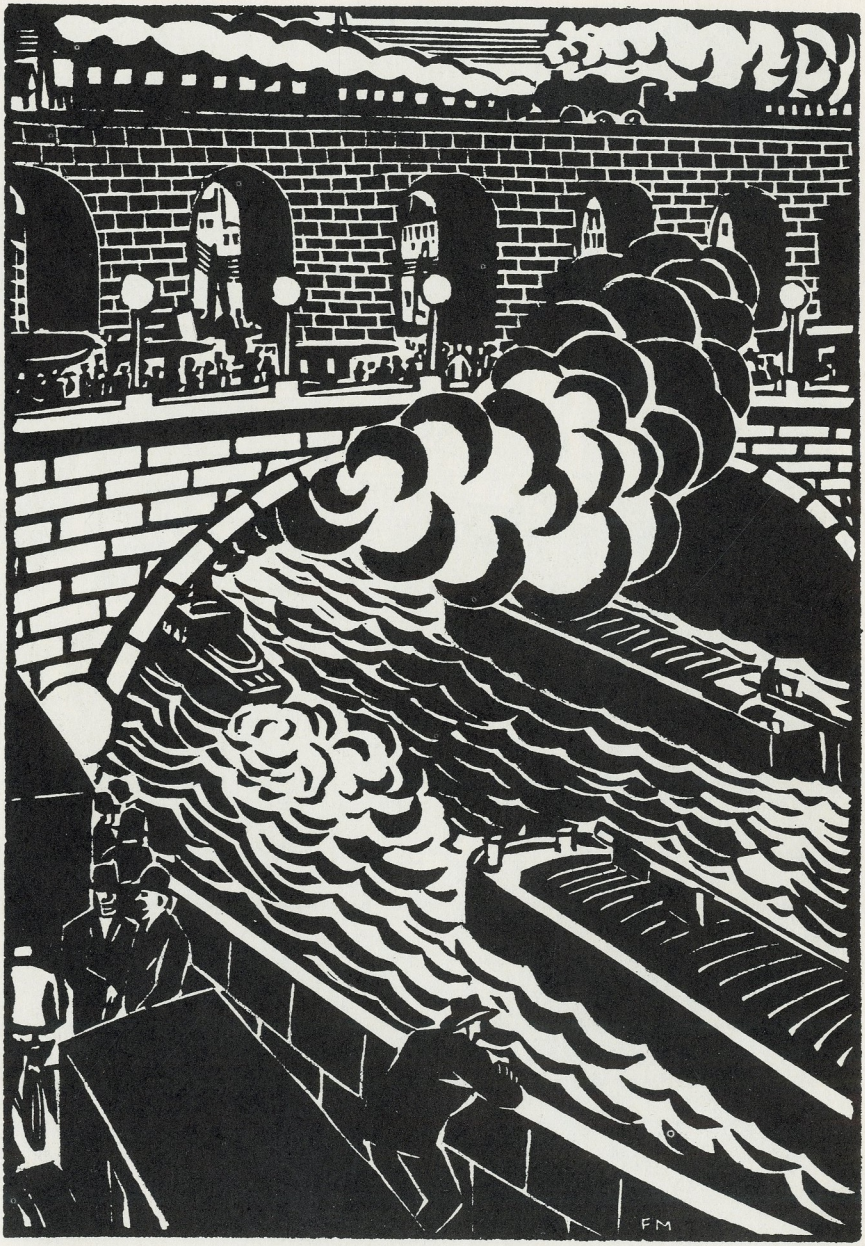
FM


FM

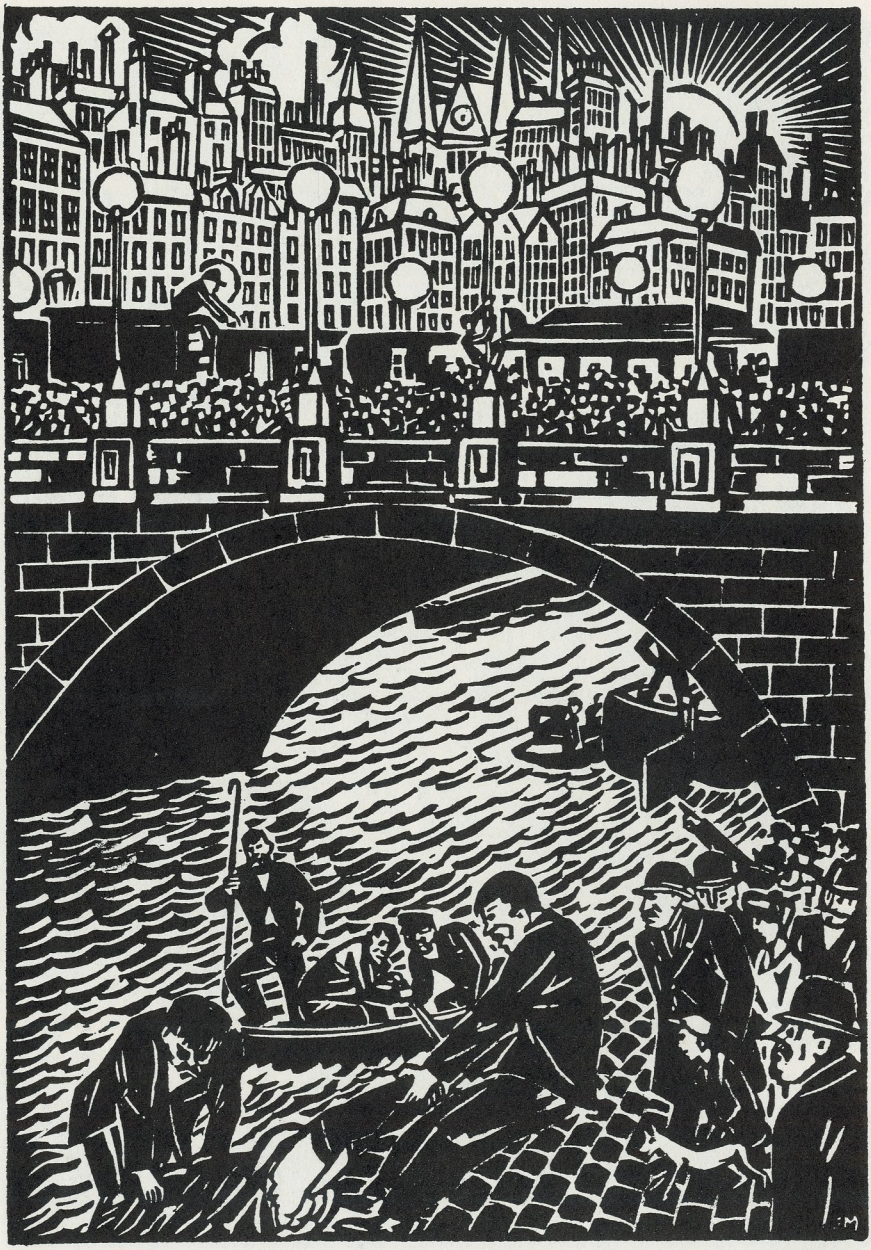
FM






FM

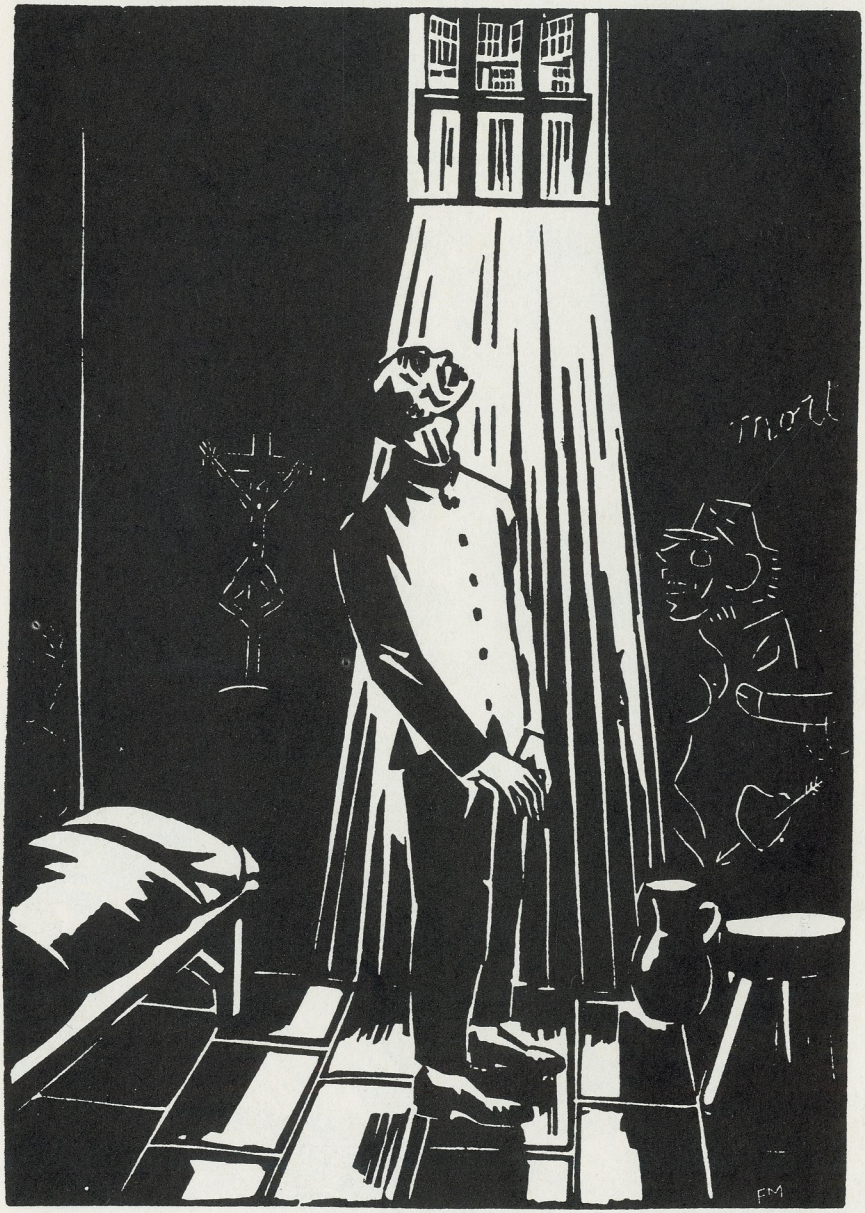
FM



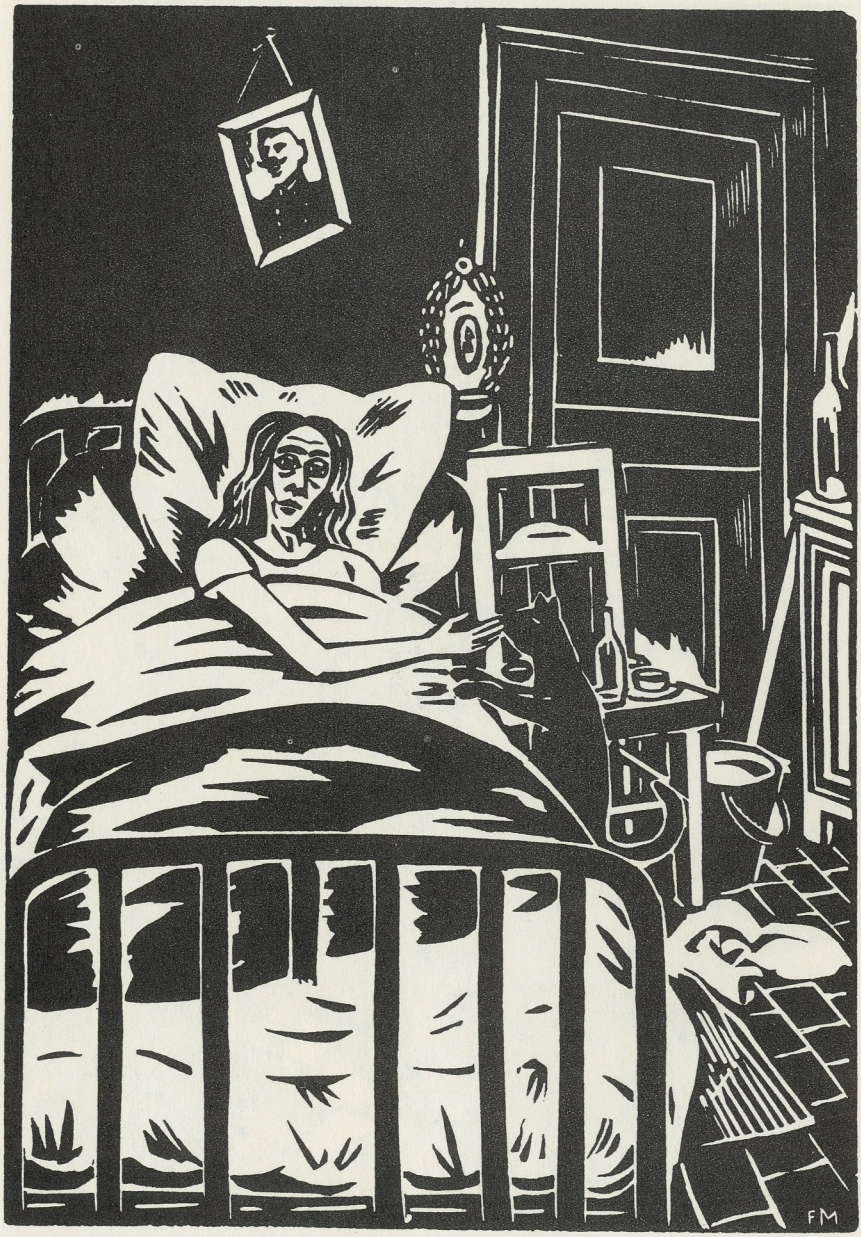
FM

FM

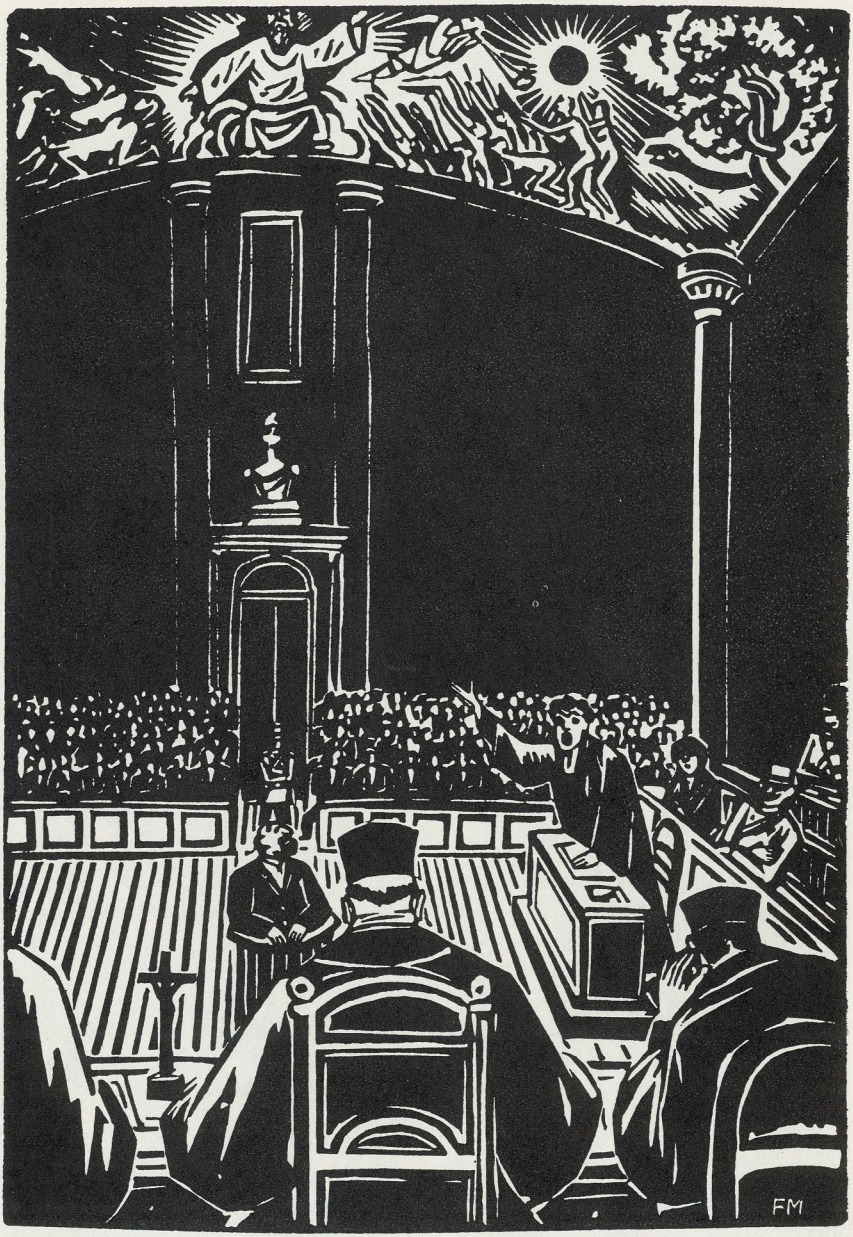
FM


mort
FM

FM


FM

FM


FM

F.M

FM

FM

FM

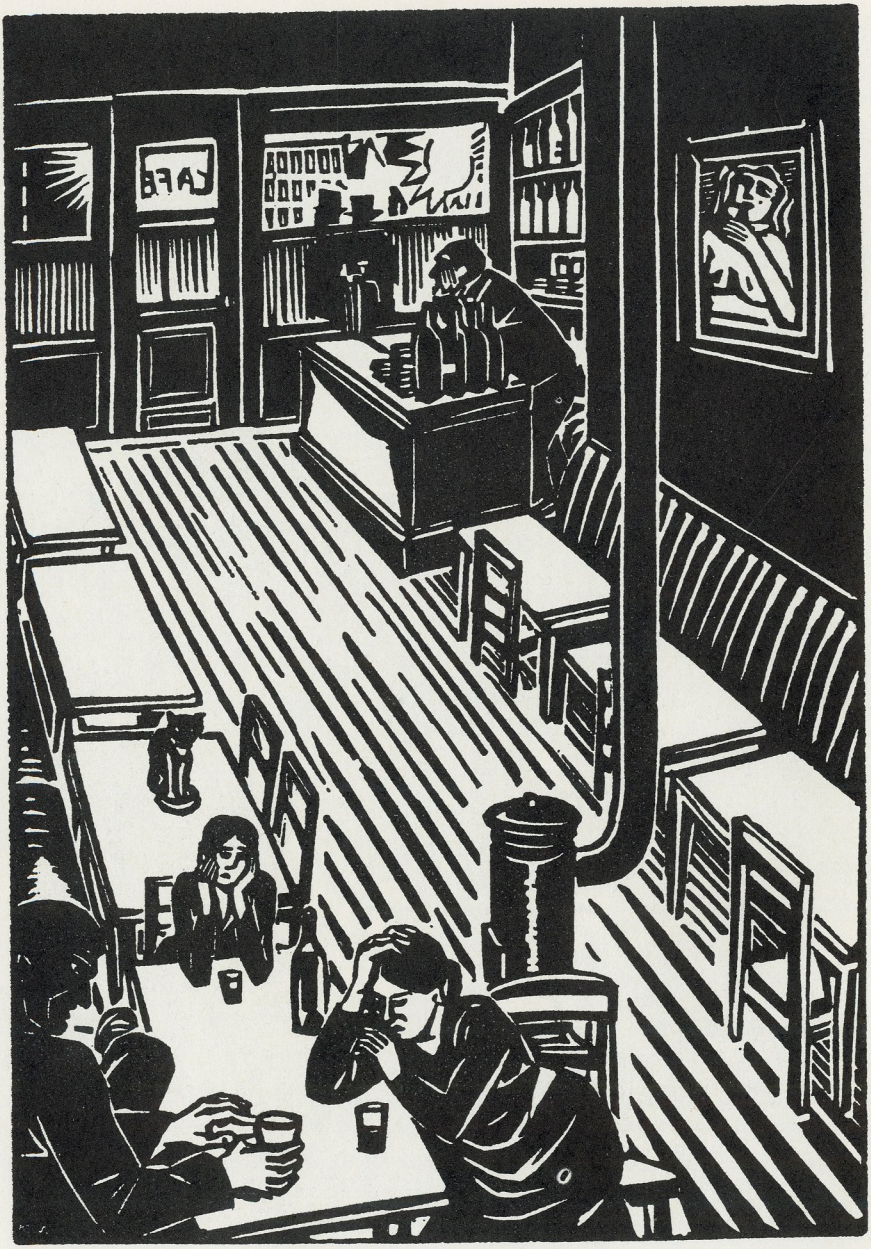
FM

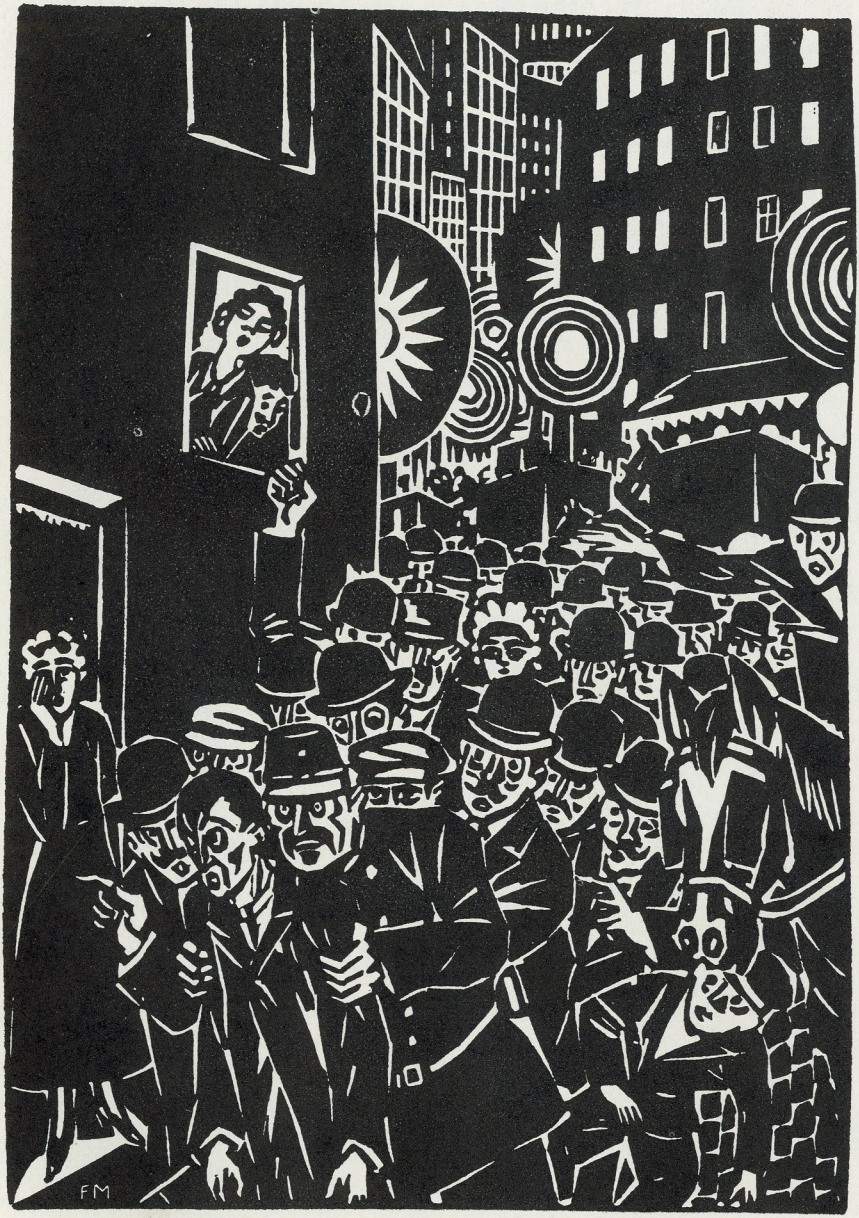
FM

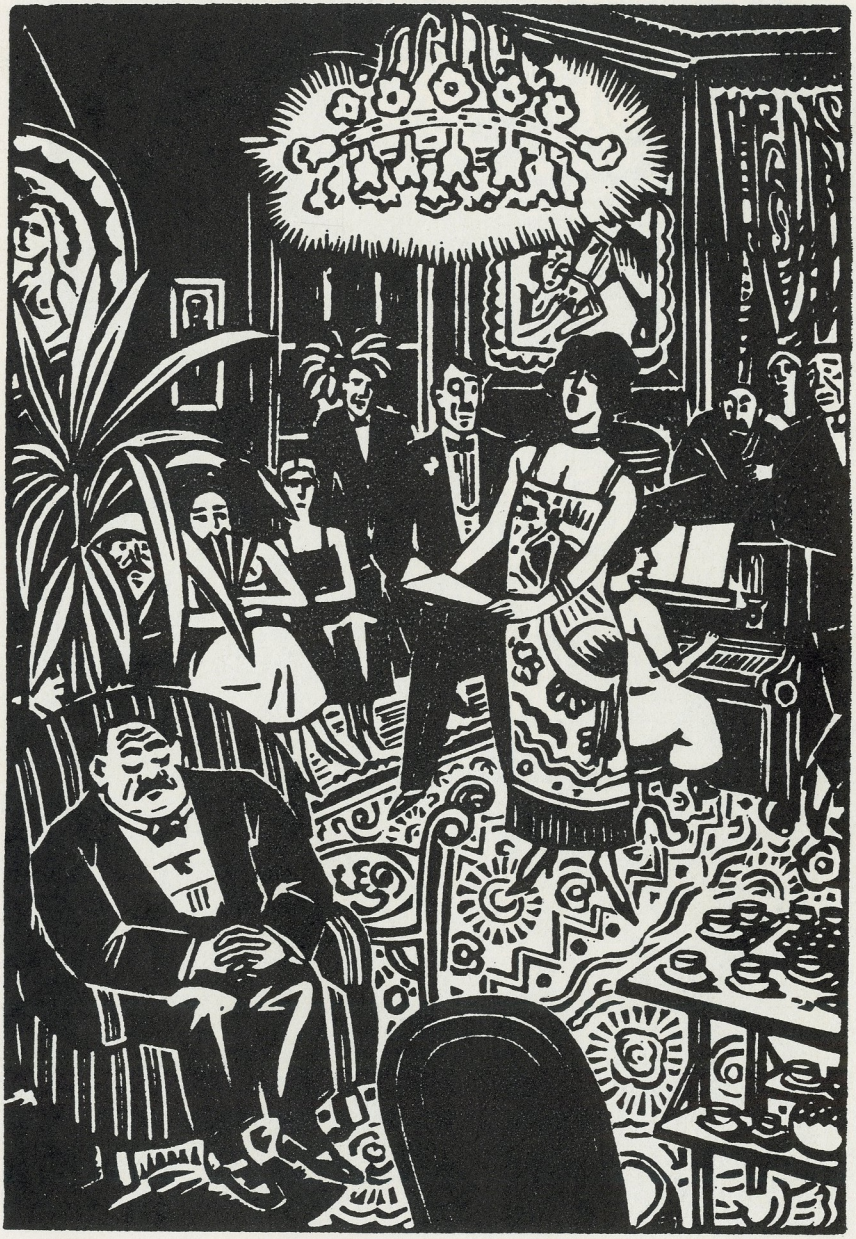
FM

FM

F.M.

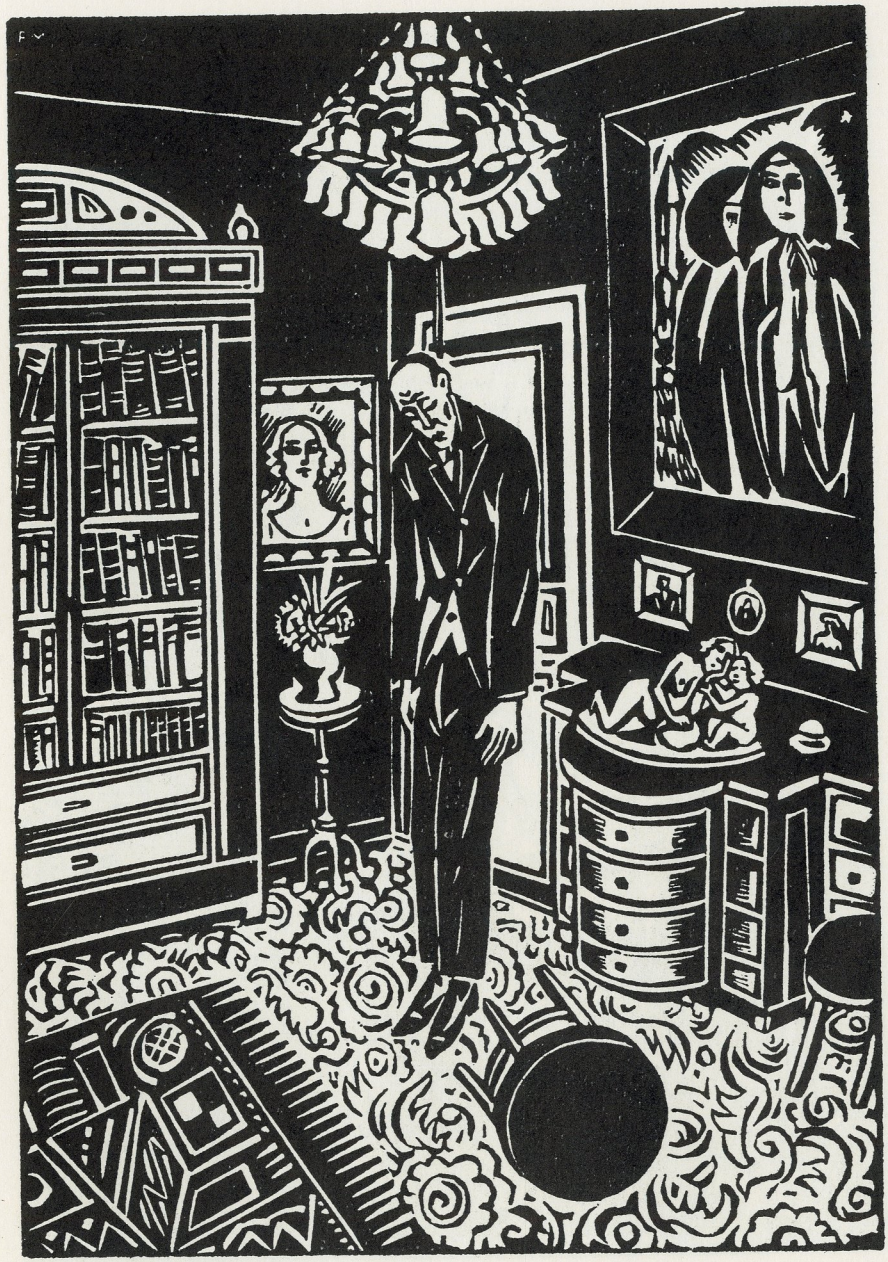

CAFE


FM



FM

FM



FM

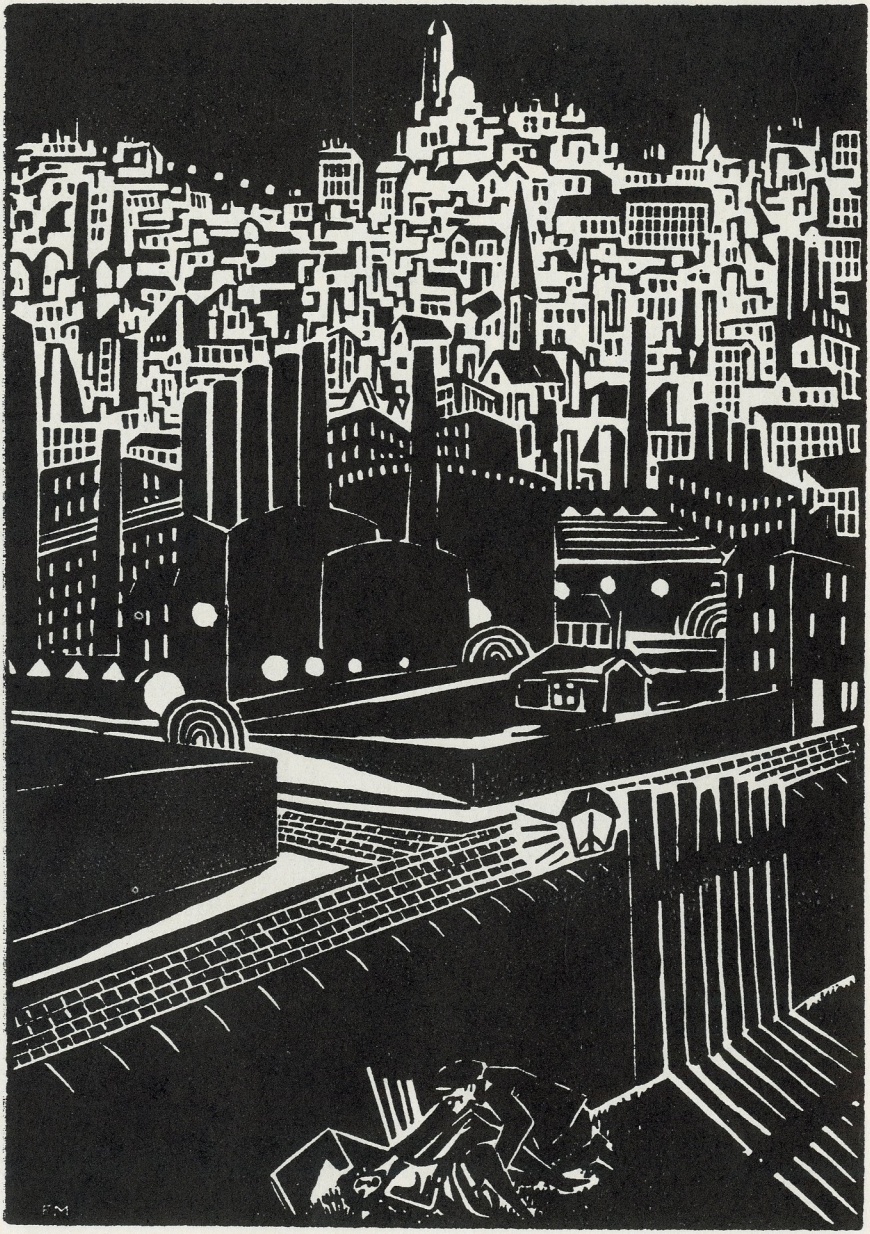
FM

FM

FM

FM

FM



FM

FM

THE CITY

FRANS MASEREEL

Here is the eternal earthly city with its perennial cast of characters: well-fed respectable citizens, politicians, prostitutes, construction workers, armless and legless beggars, the rich and the poor, the lovers, the drunkards and fire-eaters, bus drivers, office workers, bosses and bank tellers; and its ever-recurring scenes and locations: streets and the tops of skyscrapers, hospitals, museums and amusement parks, the steel mill and the senate, lonely beds where sick women lie attended only by dogs and the book-filled studies of equally isolated scholars.

The experience of the First World War changed Frans Masereel from a provincial realist, working very much in his native Flemish tradition, to a more European and more spiritual artist. Influenced by the evolving art of the movies, he created his picture story books, extending the traditional form of wood engraving to a more modern usage and employing techniques of juxtaposition or editing to create powerful contrasts. *The City* explores the many faces of its subject with an eye that is sometimes ironic and detached and sometimes filled with sympathy. And while his vision of the city is eternal, it is at the same time distinctly modern. He shares with the German Expressionists their sense of excitement at the discovery of the city, in all of its ugliness and pedestrianism, as a fit subject for art. The great modern metropolis is seen through the eyes of a child, or of a primitive suddenly transported to the middle of civilization; with a curious mixture of unspeakable terror and open-mouthed wonder.

Like the city itself, each woodcut is crowded with detail, with tiny figures, billowing smoke and shapes filling the air. Births, orphans, horrible deaths from accidents, mobs of revolutionaries and merry-makers, the multifarious forms of sexuality and of love and even the conflagration of the city itself; nothing escapes the all-seeing eye of this artist wandering through the urban labyrinth.

Unabridged republication of the 1925 edition, entitled "Die Stadt."
100 Woodcuts. 6½ x 9¼. 22448-1 Paperbound

A DOVER EDITION DESIGNED FOR YEARS OF USE!

We have made every effort to make this the best book possible. Our paper is opaque, with minimal show-through; it will not discolor or become brittle with age. Pages are sewn in signatures, in the method traditionally used for the best books, and will not drop out, as often happens with paperbacks held together with glue. Books open flat for easy reference. The binding will not crack or split. This is a permanent book.

DOVER